Amendments to the Drawings

The attached two drawing sheets include changes to Figures 1 and 2. These two drawing sheets replace the original two drawing sheets that included Figures 1 and 2.

In Figure 1, the label "(PRIOR ART)" has been inserted underneath the label "Figure 1".

In Figure 2, the label "(PRIOR ART)" has been inserted underneath the label "Figure 2".

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Claim 13 is rejected. New Claims 22-29 have been added herein. As such, Claims 13, 20 and 22-29 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the remarks set forth below. Applicants believe that the amendments herein to the patent application do not add new matter to it.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants affirm that during a telephone conversion with an Examiner on October 13, 2006, Applicants' representative Mr. Duke Amaniampong made a provisional election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species A, Figure 3, Claim 13.

Drawings

The present Office Action states: "Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g)." Applicants have herein amended Figures 1 and 2, which are included in the attached two Replacement Drawing Sheets. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Specification

The present Office Action states: "The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because -- the content is not directed to the claimed invention, e.g. at least the process steps defined in Claim 13--." Applicants respectfully submit that the abstract of the patent application has been amended herein. Therefore, Application respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

The present Office Action states: "The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed." Applicants respectfully submit that the title of the patent application has been amended herein. As such, Application respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

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35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13 has been amended herein. As such, Application respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) in view of Kitahara et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,900,958 (hereinafter Kitahara).

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to amended independent Claim 13 that recites an embodiment of the invention (emphasis added):

A method of assembling an actuator arm system for a hard disk drive comprising: placing a lower bearing on a shaft;

placing an actuator arm on the lower bearing;

placing an upper bearing on the shaft;

applying an adhesive between an inner race of the upper bearing and the shaft;

applying an axial preload force to the inner race of the upper bearing; curing the adhesive; and releasing the preload force.

Applicants respectfully contend that AAPA and Kitahara, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above recited combination of elements as recited in amended independent Claim 13. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that AAPA does not teach or suggest "placing an actuator arm on the lower bearing" as recited in amended Claim 13. Instead, Applicants respectfully contend that AAPA specifically teaches that the actuator arm 12 is attached to the sleeve 30 of the pivot cartridge 10 (see Figures 1 and 2; page 1, lines 21-28).

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Applicants respectfully contend that Kitahara does not overcome the deficiencies of AAPA. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Kitahara fails to teach or suggest "placing an actuator arm on the lower bearing" as recited in amended independent Claim 13. In particular, Applicants respectfully contend that Kitahara is silent as to an "actuator arm".

Therefore, since AAPA and Kitahara, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest elements as recited in amended independent Claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 13 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and is thus in condition for allowance.

With respect to new Claims 22-29, Applicants respectfully point out that Claims 22-29 depend from allowable amended independent Claim 13 and recite further embodiments of the present claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-29 are thus in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims of the instant patent application overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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